

Thomas BAYER

**R E M A R K S**

The above changes in the abstract and claims merely place this national phase application in the same condition as it was during Chapter II of the international phase, with the multiple dependencies being removed. Following entry of this amendment by substitution of the pages, only claims 1-11 remain pending in this application. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the abstract and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By *Benoit Castel*  
Benoit Castel  
Attorney for Applicant  
Customer No. 000466  
Registration No. 35,041  
745 South 23rd Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
703/521-2297

January 22, 2002

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"

Claims 8-11 have been amended as follows:

8. ~~Amended~~ The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 and 2, claim 1,~~ characterized in that for word groups having  $n$  words,  $n > 1$ , the words having a distance from one another of  $m$  words,  $m \geq 0$ , the addresses are searched with windows having a width of  $n + m$  words starting with the respective single word determined for the dictionary and when further  $n-1$  single words determined for the dictionary have been found in the predetermined gaps  $m$  between one another, these word groups found are included with their frequencies in the corresponding dictionary.
9. ~~Amended~~ The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1, 2, 7, 8, claim 1,~~ characterized in that the factor of similarity between the words is determined by means of the Levenshtein method.
10. ~~Amended~~ The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9, claim 1,~~ characterized in that the dictionary entries to be removed and the new entries in the dictionary are displayed, categorized and confirmed at a video coding station.
11. ~~Amended~~ The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9, claim 1,~~ characterized in that the words and/or word groups to be entered into the dictionary, before they are entered, are compared with the contents of a file in

which generally valid names characteristic of the respective dictionary category, or at least character strings, are stored and are transferred into the corresponding dictionary if they correspond.

The abstract has been amended as follows:

Abstract

Method for forming and/or updating dictionaries for the automatic reading of addresses

The reading results of an agreed number of images of items, achieved by the OCR reader, are temporarily stored subdivided into reading results which are read unambiguously and reading results which are ~~rejected~~.

~~rejected~~. Then classes of words or word groups belonging together of the reading results temporarily stored and rejected, consisting in each case of  $n$  address words,  $n = 1, 2, \dots, a$ , with interword gaps  $m$ ,  $m = 0, 1, \dots, b$  are formed which do not drop below a particular similarity factor referred to in each case a particular  $n$  and  $m$  value between them. In the dictionary or dictionaries of the associated address areas, representatives, at least, of the classes whose frequency exceeds a predetermined value are included.

Figure 1

1. Method for forming and/or updating dictionaries for automatic reading of addresses,

characterized by the following steps:

- buffering of the reading results achieved by the OCR reader, i.e. the results of the addresses of an established number of transmission images or transmission images read within an established time interval, divided into unambiguously read results with agreement with the dictionary entry and into rejected reading results without agreement with the dictionary entry,

- formation of classes of words or associated word groups with the pertinent representatives of the buffered and rejected reading results, the word groups consisting of  $n$  address words  $n = 1, 2, \dots, a$ , between which  $m$ ,  $m = 0, 1, \dots, b$ , additional words at a time are located, and the words of the classes of words or the words of the classes of word groups, relative to a certain  $n$ -value and  $m$ -value at the time, among one another do not fall below a certain similarity quantity,

- acceptance of at least one representative of those classes with a frequency which exceeds a fixed value into the dictionary or dictionaries of the assigned address areas.